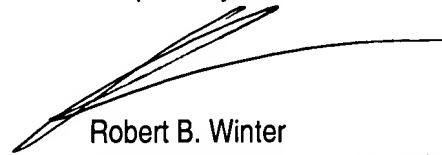


Applicants provisionally elect with traverse Claims 11-13, 15-17, 23-28 and 31 corresponding to the subject matter of Group II. Applicants traverse the restriction requirement in view of the fact that Claims 11-13 and 15-17 are dependent on claims drawn to methods of raising and maintaining hematocrit and therefore comprise certain embodiments of the methods corresponding to Group I. It is acknowledged that the remaining claims will be withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner.

#### CONCLUSION

It is believed that provisionally elected Claims 11-13, 15-17, 23-28 and 31 are in condition for allowance and an early notice thereof is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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